

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Sub B17 1. (currently amended) An information providing apparatus for displaying information on a screen, based on various information data provided through a plurality of information sources, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

~~first information obtain~~ means for obtaining first index information data ~~concerning from~~ a first information source of the plurality of information sources, ~~from the first information source;~~

~~second information obtain~~ means for obtaining second index information data ~~concerning from~~ a second information source of the plurality of information sources, ~~from the second information source;~~

a! ~~menu screen display~~ means for displaying a categorized menu screen on the screen, based on the obtained index information from the first information source and the obtained index information from the second information data obtained source; and

~~display~~ means for obtaining necessary information data from the first or second information source, in response to selection operation on the menu screen, ~~thereby to display and~~ for displaying information based on the necessary information ~~data onto the screen,~~

wherein the menu screen is arranged to display the information in a plurality of dimensions and levels such that a substantial portion of the necessary information can be seen and navigated on a minimum number of screens to enable relatively easy programming decisions and selections.

2. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein characterized in
~~that the first information data is index information concerning contents output from the first~~
~~information source and the necessary information is index information data for displaying~~
~~contents of the contents~~ the categorized menu.

3. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein characterized in
~~that the first information source and the information providing apparatus are connected with each~~
~~other through a network, and such that the index information from the first information source~~
~~obtain means obtains the first information data is obtained~~ through the network.

4. (currently amended) An information providing method for displaying information
on a screen, based on various information data provided through a plurality of information
sources, ~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a first information obtain step of obtaining first index information data concerning from a~~
~~first information source of the plurality of information sources, from the first information source;~~

~~a second information obtain step of obtaining second index information data concerning~~
~~from a second information source of the plurality of information sources, from the second~~
~~information source;~~

~~a menu screen display step of displaying a categorized menu screen on the screen, based~~
~~on the obtained index information from the first information source and the obtained index~~
~~information from the second information data obtained source; and~~

~~a menu screen display step of obtaining necessary information data from the first or~~
~~second information source, in response to selection operation on the menu screen, thereby to~~
~~display and displaying information based on the necessary information data onto the screen,~~

wherein the menu screen is arranged to display the information in a plurality of dimensions and levels such that a substantial portion of the necessary information can be seen and navigated on a minimum number of screens to enable relatively easy programming decisions and selections.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4, ~~wherein characterized in that the first information data is index information concerning contents output from the first information source and the necessary information is index information data for displaying contents of the contents~~ the categorized menu.

6. (currently amended) An ~~apparatus-method~~ according to claim 4, characterized in that in wherein the first information obtain step, the first information data concerning obtaining index information from the first information source is ~~obtained from the first information source~~ done through the a network.

7. (new) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the minimum number of screens is one.

8. (new) A method according to claim 4, wherein the minimum number of screens is one.